

Standard USG-2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of the American republic—its basic democratic principles and its political systems.

USG-2.1 Summarize the basic principles of American democracy including popular sovereignty, the rule of law, the balance of power, the separation of powers, limited government, federalism, and representative government as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. (P, H)

Taxonomy Level: 2.4-B Understand Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

Students will have had a continuous and detailed exposure to each of these concepts from the upper elementary grades through high school. Students should have developed an extensive knowledge of the significance of these principles as well as an understanding of historical and contemporary application.

(K-2.1; 1-3.4; 3-3.1; 3-4.3; 4-3.3; 4-4.2; 4-4.3; 4-4.6; 7-3.2; GS 4.3; USHC 2.2; USHC 2.4; USHC 2.5)

It is essential for students to know the underlying principles that guided the development and articulation of these foundational documents. Specifically the students will be expected to master the seven basic principles noted in the indicator. It will be necessary for students to read extensively from these documents and to distinguish the principles expressed therein for each document. It is crucial to understand that principles guide the form and the function of governing systems and to recognize this causation in the actualization of American democracy.

It is not essential for students to know who the author(s) of these documents were or to identify those philosophers who advanced these principles.

Assessment guidelines:

The objective of this indicator is for students to summarize the core ideals on which American government is founded and to recognize those principles as expressed in key foundational documents. Students need to be able to explain the concepts underlying these principles and to describe how these principles are integrated into these core documents. It is also appropriate to have students distinguish which principle(s) is being utilized when given examples. As stated above, it is imperative that students read and analyze the primary documents listed in the indicator.